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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 1,~~  
A method of validating articles of currency, comprising:  
checking, prior to determining whether or not the article is to be accepted or rejected, the  
measured properties of an article against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a  
predetermined type of article;  
determining whether the article is a valid type of one of the predetermined types and  
issuing a signal indicative of whether the article is to be accepted or rejected; and  
subsequently determining whether the measured properties meet at least one further set of  
criteria of an article of a different type,  
wherein the combination of sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal is altered.

3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein altering the combination is performed in response to determining that the measured properties meet a further one of the sets of criteria, and wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked, in a subsequent validation operation, prior to issuing the signal.

4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked in a next validation operation prior to issuing the signal.

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<sup>4</sup>  
~~5~~. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~2~~, wherein the act of altering includes altering the combination in a manner determined by which sets of criteria have been met in a plurality of previous validation operations.

<sup>5</sup>  
~~6~~. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~2~~, wherein the act of altering includes causing a plurality of further sets of criteria, associated with a plurality of currency articles of a common currency, to be included within the sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal.

<sup>6</sup>  
~~7~~. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~2~~, wherein the act of altering comprises causing one of the further sets of criteria to be considered prior to issuing the signal, and causing one of the first-mentioned sets criteria to be considered after the signal is issued.

<sup>7</sup>  
~~8~~. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim <sup>6</sup>~~7~~, wherein the act of altering is capable of causing any of the first-mentioned sets to be considered after issuing the signal.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

<sup>8</sup>  
~~11~~. (Currently amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 1, including~~  
A method of validating articles of currency, comprising:  
checking, prior to determining whether or not the article is to be accepted or rejected, the  
measured properties of an article against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a  
predetermined type of article;  
determining whether the article is a valid type of one of the predetermined types and  
issuing a signal indicative of whether the article is to be accepted or rejected;

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subsequently determining whether the measured properties meet at least one further set of criteria of an article of a different type, and

storing data indicating the number of articles which have met at least one further set of criteria in such a manner as to enable downloading of the data.

*Did*  
~~9~~ 12. (Previously presented) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:  
measuring properties of an article;  
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and  
determining, as a result of the checking operation, whether the article is one of said types, wherein the criteria relating to respective types of articles are considered in a sequence, and the sequence is altered for a subsequent validation operation.

~~10~~ 13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim ~~12~~ 9, including issuing a signal indicating that the article is not genuine after a plurality of determinations and depending on the results of those determinations, and prior to further determinations being made.

~~11~~ 14. (Previously presented) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:  
measuring properties of an article;  
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of one of the predetermined types; and  
automatically preventing a single one of the sets of criteria, associated with a predetermined type of article, from being considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

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*Did*  
<sup>12</sup>  
15. (Previously presented) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:  
measuring properties of an article;  
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of one of the predetermined types; and  
automatically causing a single different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

<sup>13</sup>  
16. (Previously presented) Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:  
memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and  
a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,  
wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically preventing one of the sets of criteria from being effective during a subsequent validation operation, and then preventing incrementing of the credit count for the predetermined type of article.

<sup>14</sup>  
17. (Previously presented) Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:  
memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and  
a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,  
wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically enabling a set of criteria, to be effective during a

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subsequent validation operation, thus enabling incrementing of the credit count when the predetermined type of article is recognized.

*15*  
*18.* (Previously presented) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:  
measuring properties of an article;  
checking the measured properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of a said predetermined type, the number of sets checked being substantially equal to the maximum possible to be checked during said validation period; and

wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one of the sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

*16*  
*19.* (Previously presented) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:  
measuring properties of an article;  
checking the measured properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article and the predetermined types belonging to the same currency, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of a said predetermined type; and

wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one but not all of said sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article of the same currency, to be considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation.